

CHATSWORTH COUNTRY CLUB HISTORY

The Chatsworth Country Club came into being in July 1947 when Myrtle Thompson, Helen Cameron and others invited ladies to a meeting held at Myrtle Thompson's, with the idea of starting a ladies' club. There were 13 ladies at that meeting.

They decided to form a Club and suggestions for a name were to be brought to the next meeting. The story goes that Mrs. Burns said to her husband, "I'm supposed to have a name for our Club. What shall I say?" He said, "Oh, call it the Country Club." It happened that that name was chosen, but after some discussion it was decided to call the Club the "Chatsworth Country Club", the C.C.C.

We were surprised to learn in our research that many of the things decided upon at that first meeting have carried on, with a few changes, right to today.

It was decided to have a yearly membership of .25¢. That lasted until 1975, when it was raised to .50¢. In 1980 it became \$1.00, and in 1983 our present rate of \$2.00.

The meetings were to be held in alphabetical order on the third Thursday of the month. Changes have been necessary at times but that is still the rule.

The nickel draw was instituted at the first meeting. Each person put in a nickel and a name was drawn to win a prize. The person winning the prize brought the prize for the next meeting. Now the hostess provides the prize. The nickel draw became a dime draw in 1976, and a quarter draw in 1985.

At the first December meeting there was a gift exchange and that practice has carried on through the years.

At the very first meeting a soap contest was held and a contest or game was a very enjoyable part of the meetings until 1959 when they just seemed to disappear. They were brought back during the presidencies of Florence and Beryl Tovell and again our skills and knowledge were tested.

At the second meeting it was decided to have a lunch committee of four for each meeting, two to bring sandwiches and two cakes. We were hearty eaters in those days - but we must remember we had a large membership and there were a lot of children at the meetings. The May meeting at Mrs. Morton Tovell's in 1949 must have reached a high. There were 27 adults and 19 children there. The lunch committee of four lasted until 1961. For a few meetings three supplied lunch, then two, and in 1973

the hostess started providing the lunch.

In 1949 we appointed what was called a "sick committee" of two to send cards and/or gifts and flowers and to visit members of the Club and the community who were sick or bereaved. The Committee is still carrying on, but now it is called the "Sunshine Convenor" as just one does this. We started early sending birthday cards to members and lately - the last three years, we've been having birthday parties for members.

We started early on community efforts, becoming involved in 1948 with other local women's groups in trying to get the town to provide decent restrooms. We were still writing about that in 1957. Can you imagine that!

After the children started being bussed to school in town we sponsored Christmas concerts in Chatsworth school - from 1953 to 1959. One year there were 77 children on the candy bag list. For two years after we stopped having concerts we had Christmas parties in the school. When the school was sold, we continued to have Christmas parties in our homes, but these just for members.

During the second year of our Club we each brought a food item to the meeting. These were made into parcels which were sent to Europe as food was still in short supply there after the war.

Another interesting thing we did, in the 1950's was gather old woollens and send them to Fairfields or Adanac to be made into blankets. Ten such shipments were sent. The Companies sent one or two premium blankets with each shipment and these were raffled off to help our funds.

We have donated to Cancer, Red Cross, Polio and many others. We started looking after the Multiple Sclerosis Tag day in 1975 and have been doing cancer canvassing since 1977. We also began sponsoring a child through Canadian Save the Children Fund in 1977.

In order to finance our many activities, we have had bazaars, bake sales, teas, cooking bingos and we have catered to sales, weddings and anniversaries.

In 1960 we received a Chatelaine Award in recognition of our community efforts and in 1984 we received a Multiple Sclerosis Award. Since 1955 we have had a picnic each year for the Community. In 1957 it was a special 10 year anniversary picnic

and in 1980 we had a reunion picnic celebrating Alberta's 75th birthday with an attendance of 245.

Over the years, 62 women have belonged to the Chatsworth Country Club. Our highest membership was in our second year when the membership was 23. Our lowest was in 1974-75 when we just had nine members. This year we have a membership of 13 - three of these being charter members.

There was a time in 1973 when we wondered if we should continue. I think we're all glad we did. A lot of good things have happened since then and I'm sure there will be many more in the future.

- - Address given by Mavis Tovell at the Fortieth Anniversary Banquet held on July 3, 1987.